

Characteristics of Organisms

K-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)

K-2.1 Recognize what organisms need to stay alive (including air, water, food and shelter).
Taxonomy level: 1.1-A Remember Factual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: As with other indicators at this grade level, students will experience their first formal introduction to important science concepts. Students are introduced to air, water, food, and shelter at this grade level and will build upon this knowledge for plants in 1st grade (1-2.1) where these needs are related to energy and growth. In 2nd grade (2-2.1), students will be asked to recall the basic needs of animals (including air, water, food, and shelter) for energy, growth, and protection.

It is essential for students to know that *organisms*, or living things, have basic needs to stay alive.

- Plants need air, water, and food to stay alive.
- Animals need air, water, food, and shelter for protection.
- If an organism does not get everything that it needs to stay alive, it will die.

It is not essential for students to go beyond this level of knowledge at this time.

Assessment Guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to *recognize* what organisms need to stay alive; therefore; the primary focus of assessment should be to remember that living things need food, shelter, water, and air to survive. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to *recognize* on a diagram or picture which of an animal's basic needs is missing.